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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DLOS-06 SAL-01 OES-06
INT-05 /123 W
----------030249 117070 /14
R 021740Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3204
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2019

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, CH, ETRD
SUBJECT: FIRST ROUND OF RENEWED EC/PRC TALKS ON TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1543

1. WE HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY EC COMMISSION EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICIAL (MASLEN) ON THE OPENING ROUND OF RENEWED EC/PRC NEGOTIATIONS, HELD FEBRUARY 25, ON THE EC'S NOVEMBER 1974 OFFER OF A STANDARD FRAMEWORK TRADE AGREEMENT. THE TALKS WERE CHAIRED BY FRIEDRICH KLEIN (DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES) FOR THE COMMISSION AND PRC MISSION COUNSELOR LI SHU-TE.

2. MASLEN CHARACTERIZED THIS INITIAL MEETING AS A "RECAPITU-LATION" SESSION, DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS HELD IN LATE 1975/EARLY 1976. HE SAID THAT THE EC HAD PUT FORWARD NEW WORDING ON OLD POINTS OF DIFFICULTY, WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY PRC REACTION, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF NEW TOPICS.
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3. MASLEN SAID THAT IT IS TOO SOON TO SPECULATE WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT BUT THAT, SOONER OR LATER, THE TALKS WILL HAVE TO MOVE BEYOND THE REVIEW STEPS. NONETHELESS, THE COMMISSION DOES NOT EXPECT FURTHER MOVEMENT ON SUBSTANCE BY THE PRC UNTIL THE PEKING DECISION-MAKING

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APPARATUS IS FULLY IN PLACE AGAIN. UNTIL THEN, COMMISSION OFFICIALS FEEL IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRC SIDE TO GET DECISIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT ON IMPORTANT NEGOTIATING POINTS. ACCORDING TO MASLEN, COMMISSION NEGOTIATORS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRC SIDE SIMPLY WISHES TO BE SEEN, PERHAPS BY THE SOVIETS, TO BE CONTINUING TALKS WITH THE EC, EVEN THOUGH THEY LACK NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TERMS OF NEGOTIATION.

4. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT MEETING, BUT MASLEN EXPECTS IT WILL BE HELD WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

5. ABOVE ACCOUNT SEEMS SOLID, BUT IT IS PERHAPS WORTH NOTING THAT HAFERKAMP, COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 1 THAT HE EXPECTS "EARLY CONCLUSION" OF NEGOTIATIONS.HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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